

# County of San Diego Wetlands Regulatory Workshop



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# Potential Wetlands in San Diego County



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What Do You Consider A Wetland?



































# Importance of Wetlands

- Primary habitat of many rare, threatened and endangered species.
- Wildlife movement corridors
- Water quality



# County of San Diego Wetlands

- County of San Diego defines and implements wetland regulation through:
  - Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO)
  - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

# Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO)

RPO Defines wetlands as:

**All lands having one or more of the following attributes are “wetlands”:**

At least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (plants whose habitat is water or very wet places);

The substratum is predominantly undrained hydric soil; or

The substratum is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by water at some time during the growing season of each year.



# Permitted uses within RPO wetlands

- RPO permits the following uses with County wetlands:

Aquaculture

Scientific research

Wetland restoration

# Permitted uses within wetland buffers:

- RPO permits the following within wetland buffers:

Access Paths (generally passive hiking)

Improvements to protect wetlands

Use permitted within wetlands



# Implementation of RPO and CEQA

Development must avoid any impacts to County defined Wetlands or Wetland Buffers.

Where County wetland regulations restrict development of the **bulk** of the project, encroachment into wetlands to the minimum extent necessary will be allowed.

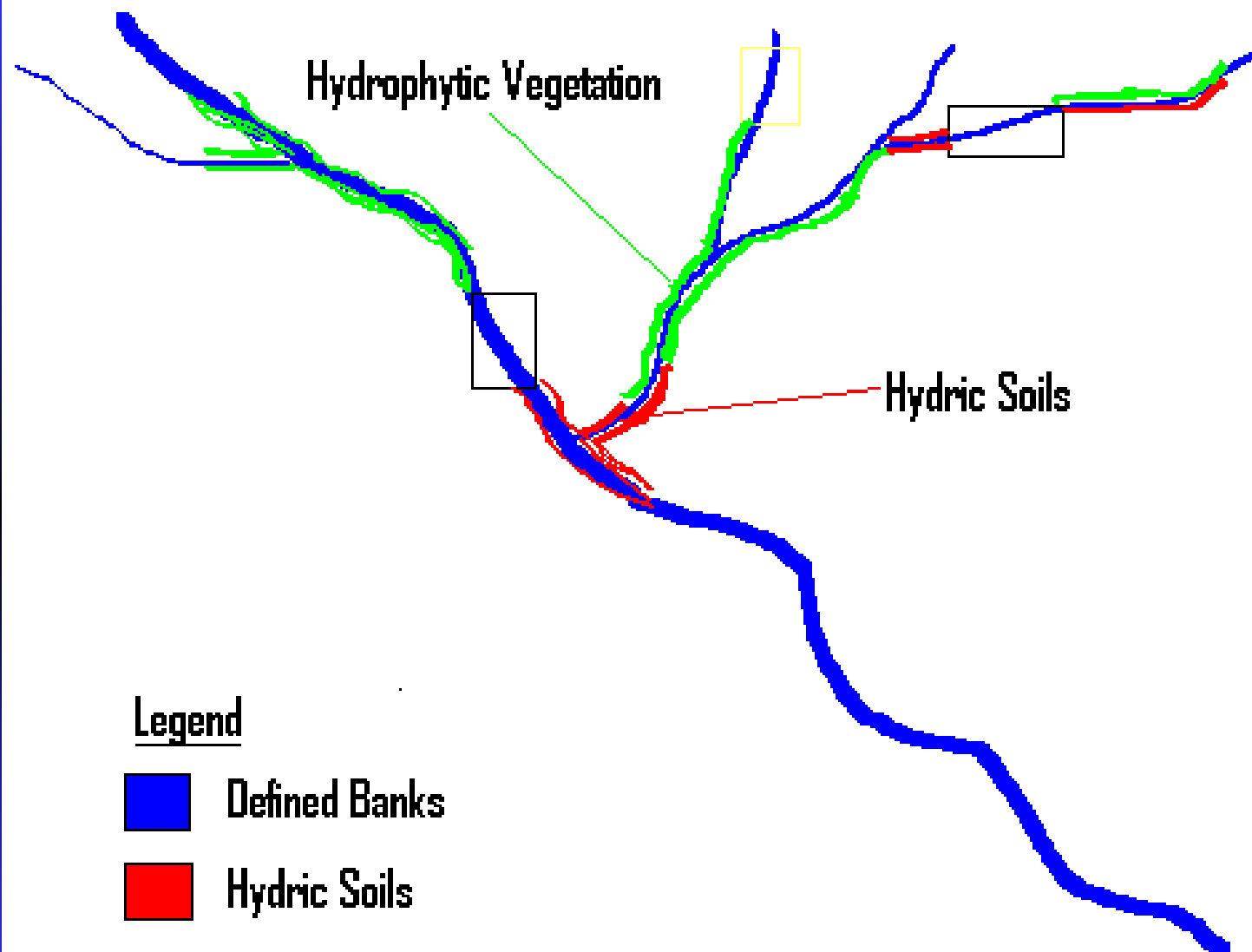
Ex. Construction of a single crossing to access the **bulk** of the project site.





# Intent of RPO and CEQA

- Preserve biological functions and values of wetlands and wetland buffers.
- Preserve drainages and topographic features (including Floodways and Floodplains) that convey water to wetlands or riparian habitats.











# Easily Defined County Wetlands

















# Marginal and Modified Wetlands

Drainage Features that support nonsoil substrates, but lack hydrophytic vegetation

















Drainage features that support hydrophytic vegetation (not predominant) and contain nonsoil substrates

















# Wetland Classifications?

Southern coast live oak riparian forest

Historical floodplain with mature riparian tress

Agricultural ponds























# The End?

